

TITLE 5. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
CHAPTER 23. UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE
SUBCHAPTER 6. REHABILITATION SUBCODE

N.J.A.C. 5:23-6

1. Exception: Windows may be replaced with windows like those existing without meeting the size requirements of the building subcode.

i. In sleeping rooms below the fourth story in occupancies of Groups R or I-1, where the size of window openings is being changed, at least one window shall:

(1) Be operable;

(2) Have a sill height of not more than 44 inches;

(3) Have a width of at least 20 inches, a height of at least 24 inches and a minimum of total area of 5.7 square feet measured from head to sill and from side to side.

(4) New window openings in sleeping rooms shall not be required to meet these requirements in buildings where the sleeping room is provided with a door to a corridor having access to two remote exits or in buildings equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system.

ii. Basement windows in buildings of Group R-2 shall comply with the requirements of *N.J.A.C. 5:23-6.26(b)3* where the window serves as the second means of egress from the dwelling unit.

2. Replacement handrails and guardrails shall comply with Sections 1009.10, 1010.8, 1012, and 1013.1 of the building subcode, respectively. Where 50 percent or more of a handrail or guardrail on a flight or on a level is replaced, then this shall be considered a complete replacement and shall comply with the referenced sections of the building subcode. The repair or replacement of less than 50 percent of a handrail or guardrail shall be permitted to match the existing handrail or guardrail. (Building)

* § 5:23-6.6 Alterations (see p. 25)

(a) Alterations, as defined in *N.J.A.C. 5:23-6.3*, shall comply with the requirements of this section.

(b) All work shall be done in a workmanlike manner.

(c) The work shall not cause any diminution of existing structural strength, system capacity or mechanical ventilation below that which exists at the time of application for a permit or that which is required by the applicable subcodes of the Uniform Construction Code, whichever is lower. The replacement or addition of fixtures, equipment or appliances shall not increase loads on these systems unless the system is upgraded in accordance with the applicable subcode of the UCC to accommodate the increased load.

1. Newly introduced fixed loads shall not exceed the uniformly distributed live loads or concentrated live load criteria of Table 1607.1 of the building subcode and shall not

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create deflection that exceeds the standards set forth below. As used in this section, fixed loads shall mean uniform or concentrated loads and shall include, but not be limited to, equipment, files, library stacks, or similar loading conditions. (Building)

i. For wood frame construction, deflection shall not exceed L/180 for roofs with a slope of 3 in 12 or less or L/120 for roofs with a slope of greater than 3 in 12 and for floors.

ii. For steel frame construction, deflection shall not exceed L/240 for roofs with a slope of 3 in 12 or less or L/180 for roofs with a slope of greater than 3 in 12 and for floors.

iii. For concrete construction, deflection shall not exceed L/180 for roofs or L/240 for floors.

2. Existing fire alarm, automatic sprinkler, standpipe, smoke control and emergency power systems shall not be removed without replacement and shall be maintained in operating condition. (Fire)

3. No work shall be undertaken that diminishes accessibility below that which is required by the Barrier Free Subcode of the Uniform Construction Code, *N.J.A.C. 5:23-7*. (Building)

4. Construction materials used as part of an alteration project shall be consistent with the existing construction type or the allowable construction type, whichever is less restrictive.

(d) The following products and practices shall not be used:

1. Wood paneling being used as an interior finish not in conformance with Table 2 of *N.J.A.C. 5:23-6.11* of this subcode; (Building)

2. Carpet used for floor covering that fails to meet the DOC FF-1 "Pill Test" (Consumer Product Safety Commission 16 C.F.R. 1630);

3. Electrical materials/supplies: Unlisted or unapproved electrical products. As stated in the National Electrical Code (sections 90.7, 110.2, 110.3, and article 100), only electrical products listed, labeled, approved, and identified are acceptable. Approval is to be based on tests and listings of testing laboratories such as Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (UL), Factory Mutual (FM) or Canadian Standards Association/Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (CSA/NRTL), etc.; and (Electrical)

4. Plumbing materials and supplies:

i. All purpose solvent cement;

ii. Clear PB (polybutylene) piping;

iii. Flexible traps and tailpieces;

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iv. Sheet and tubular copper and brass trap and tailpiece fittings less than B&S (Brown & Sharpe) 17 gauge (.045 inch); and

v. Solder having more than 0.2 percent lead shall not be used in the repair of potable water systems. (Plumbing)

5. Bars, grilles and screens shall not be placed over emergency escape windows or doors in Groups R or I-1 unless they are releasable or removable from the inside without the use of a key, tool or force greater than that which is required for the normal operation of the window or door. (Building)

* 6. The following practices shall not be used on painted surfaces in all buildings of Group R that were constructed before 1978, Group E and Group I-4 buildings used as child-care facilities unless the painted surface has been tested and found to be free of lead-based paint:

i. Open flame burning or the use of high temperature (in excess of 1100 degrees Fahrenheit) heat guns;

ii. Power sanding or sandblasting, unless a special HEPA (high efficiency particulate air) filter equipped vacuum attachment is used to contain dust;

iii. Uncontained water blasting or power washing; or

iv. Dry scraping or sanding more than two square feet per room (interior) or 10 square feet or more per building (exterior).

7. A mirror shall not be placed in or adjacent to any means of egress so as to confuse the direction of egress or give the appearance of a doorway, exit, or passageway. Draperies or similar hangings shall not obscure an exit.

i. Exception: Within dwelling units of Groups R-2, R-3, R-4 and R-5.

(e) The following products and practices shall be required, when applicable:

1. When any water closet is replaced, the replacement water closet shall require not more than 1.6 gallons of water per flush as required by the plumbing subcode. (Plumbing)

2. In buildings required by the barrier free subcode to be accessible, when bathrooms or toilet rooms are altered, the following requirements for providing accessibility shall apply unless the requirements of the barrier free subcode have been met:

i. When toilet partitions are moved or installed, but existing fixtures are not being moved, an accessible stall complying with ICC/ANSI A117.1-2003, Section 604.8 shall be created provided that this can be accomplished without moving fixtures. (Building)

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ii. When bathroom fixtures or hardware are replaced, the replacement fixtures or hardware shall comply with ICC/ANSI A117.1-2003, Sections 603 through 608, as applicable, for nonresidential buildings or ICC/ANSI A117.1-2003, Chapter 10 for residential buildings required by the barrier free subcode to be accessible. (Plumbing)

iii. When space is reconfigured, the altered space shall comply with the barrier free subcode, *N.J.A.C. 5:23-7*.

(1) Where full compliance is technically infeasible, compliance shall be achieved to the maximum extent feasible.

(2) Where full compliance is technically infeasible, a single fixture unisex accessible bathroom shall be permitted. This may be accomplished by providing two unisex bathrooms, one of which is accessible. (Building)

(3) Where it is technically infeasible to gain compliance within an altered bathroom, signage to the closest accessible bathroom (if any) shall be provided at the altered bathroom. (Building)

3. Replacement doors shall comply with the following: (Building)

i. In buildings required by the barrier free subcode to be accessible, when new door openings are created, existing door openings are enlarged or door assemblies are replaced and the required door width can be achieved within the existing opening, the new door shall comply with ICC/ANSI A117.1-2003, Section 404.

(1) If the door being added, enlarged or replaced is a building entrance and at least 50 percent of the entrance doors are accessible, then the door being added, enlarged or replaced is not required to comply with ICC/ANSI A117.1-2003, Section 404.

ii. Replacement dwelling unit, guest room or rooming unit corridor doors in Groups I-1, R-1 or R-2 shall be 1 3/4 inch solid core wood or approved equal with approved door closers and shall not have any glass panels, other than approved wire glass in metal frames.

(1) 1 3/8 inch solid core replacement doors shall be accepted if the existing frame is not being replaced and will accommodate only a 1 3/8 inch door.

4. In buildings required by the barrier free subcode to be accessible, when entrance steps are being replaced, an accessible entrance shall be provided if this does not add more than 20 percent to the cost of replacing the steps. (Building)

i. If at least 50 percent of the other building entrances are accessible, then the installation of a ramp shall not be required.

5. When providing vertical access is part of the scope of work, a limited use limited application elevator or platform lift may be installed as permitted by *N.J.A.C. 5:23-7.1*. (Building)

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6. Replacement glass shall comply with the "Safety Glazing" requirements of the building subcode and shall be installed in the "Specific Hazardous Locations" as specified by Section 2406.3 of the building subcode or by Section R308.4 of the one- and two-family dwelling subcode, as applicable. (Building)

7. Where a fireproofing material is removed that is integral to the rating of an existing fire-rated assembly, the material shall be replaced so that the rating is preserved. (Building)

8. Existing electrical wiring and equipment undergoing repair or replacement shall be allowed to be replaced with like material except for the following: (Electrical)

i. Replacement of electrical receptacles shall comply with the requirements contained in Section 406.3(d) of the electrical subcode;

ii. Plug fuses of the Edison-base type shall be used only for replacements where there is no evidence of over fusing or tampering per Section 240.51(B) of the electrical subcode; iii. For replacement of nongrounding-type receptacles with grounding-type receptacles, the equipment grounding conductor of a grounding type receptacle outlet shall be permitted to be connected, in accordance with Section 250.130(C) of the electrical subcode;

iv. Non-"hospital grade" receptacles in patient bed locations of health care facilities, Group I-2, shall be replaced with "hospital grade" receptacles; and

v. Frames of electric ranges, wall-mounted ovens, counter-mounted cooking units, clothes dryers, and outlet or junction boxes that are part of the existing branch circuit for these appliances, except for mobile homes and recreational vehicles, shall be permitted to be grounded to the grounded circuit conductor if all the conditions of Section 250.140 of the electrical subcode are met.

9. In buildings of Group R or I-1, when the work being performed creates a bedroom, the following shall be provided:

i. A hard-wired smoke alarm shall be installed within each new bedroom and a second, hard-wired smoke alarm shall be installed within the immediate vicinity of the bedroom in accordance with NFPA 72. (Fire)

ii. A bedroom window or exterior door that meets the requirements of *N.J.A.C. 5:23-6.9(a)17* shall be provided when the bedroom created is below the fourth floor. (Building)

(1) This requirement shall not apply in buildings where the sleeping room is provided with a door to a corridor having access to two remote exits or in buildings equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system.

10. In buildings of Use Groups R-3, R-4 and R-5:

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i. When the work being performed creates living space over a private garage, the private garage shall comply with Section 406.1.4 of the building subcode or R309.2 of the one- and two-family dwelling subcode, as applicable, for fire resistance rating.

ii. When the work being performed creates an additional dwelling unit within the building, the new dwelling unit shall be separated from the existing dwelling unit(s) with fire partitions or horizontal assemblies having a fire resistance rating of not less than one hour constructed in accordance with Sections 708 and 711 of the building subcode or R317.1 of the one- and two-family dwelling subcode, as applicable.

iii. When finished space is created in previously unfinished space, receptacle and lighting outlets shall comply with Section 210.52 and 210.70, respectively, of the electrical subcode.

11. In buildings of Group R-1, in at least one sleeping room or suite of every 25 or fewer that are part of the scope of work, the work being performed shall comply with the applicable provisions of ICC/ANSI A117.1-2003 unless the facility already provides the number of accessible sleeping rooms required by the barrier free subcode. In addition, at least one sleeping room or suite of every 25 or fewer that are part of the scope of work shall be equipped with a visual alarm and notification device for the hearing impaired unless the facility already provides the number required by the barrier free subcode.
(Building)

12. In buildings of Groups R-1 and R-2:

i. When habitable space is created in previously unoccupied space, the minimum clear ceiling height shall be seven feet. For rooms with a sloped ceiling, the minimum clear ceiling height shall be seven feet for at least 35 square feet of the floor area of the room. Any portion of the room measuring less than five feet from the finished floor to the finished ceiling shall not be considered usable floor area.

ii. Group R-2 only: When finished space is created in previously unfinished space, receptacle and lighting outlets shall comply with Section 210.52 and 210.70, respectively, of the electrical subcode.

13. When a new refrigerant is introduced, the requirements of the mechanical subcode applicable to that refrigerant, if any, shall be met. This shall apply to the installation of new equipment, the replacement of existing equipment with equipment using a different refrigerant, or the replacement of the refrigerant in existing equipment with a different refrigerant. (Plumbing)

14. When the work being performed creates or exposes wood framing of any wall, floor, ceiling, or roof, fireblocking shall be provided as required by section 717.2 of the building subcode or section R602.8 of the one- and two-family dwelling subcode, as applicable. The fireblocking material shall comply with section 717.2.1 or 717.2.1.1 of the

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building subcode or section R602.8.1 of the one- and two-family dwelling subcode, as applicable.

15. When the work being performed creates or exposes the entire framing of any wall, floor, ceiling, or roof assembly that is part of the building thermal envelope (encloses conditioned space) and there is no insulation in the cavities, insulation meeting a minimum R-value shall be installed that fills the cavities of the framed assembly.

i. If only a de minimis amount of interior finish remains on the framed assembly, the above requirement for the installation of insulation shall apply; or

ii. If high efficiency equipment is installed as per the energy subcode, the above requirement for installation of insulation shall not apply to the basement.

16. When window assemblies are newly installed or replaced, the U-factor (thermal transmittance) shall not exceed 0.5 or the U-factor of the window assembly being replaced, whichever is lower.

17. When the work being performed results in an indoor or outdoor gas meter, related regulator or piping becoming subject to vehicle impact, which work includes, but is not limited to, new installation, relocation or other construction, the gas meter, related regulator or piping shall be protected by barriers meeting the requirements of Section 312 of the International Fire Code. For the purpose of applying this provision, "subject to vehicle impact" shall mean located within three feet of any garage door opening, driveway or designated parking area and not separated by a building wall from the space where a vehicle may be operated.

i. Exception: If verification of the installation of an excess flow valve is provided by the gas utility, vehicle impact barriers shall not be required.

18. Where work, other than ordinary maintenance or minor work, is being performed on an elevator, the elevator shall be equipped to operate with a standardized fire service key.

19. The work shall not cause an exit enclosure to be used for any purpose other than means of egress, except those penetrations permitted by Section 1020.1.2 of the building subcode.

(f) In buildings of Groups R-3, R-4 and R-5 and in dwelling units of Group R-2, smoke detectors shall be installed and maintained on each level of the structure, outside each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms, and located on or near the ceiling. Battery-operated units shall be permitted. (Fire)

(g) In buildings of Groups I-1, R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4 or R-5 containing a fuel burning appliance or having an attached garage, carbon monoxide alarms shall be installed in accordance with the mechanical subcode. (Fire)

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(h) The work shall not make the building less conforming with the basic requirements of this subchapter than it was when the alteration was undertaken.

1. Where the building currently exceeds the basic requirements, the extent to which it exceeds shall not be reduced unless the building also exceeds the requirements of the corresponding subcode of the UCC. In this case, the extent of compliance with the basic requirements may be reduced, but not below the requirements of the corresponding subcode of the UCC.

2. Where the scope of work consists of an item for which requirements are established in the basic requirements of this subcode, the work shall comply with the basic requirements.

(i) All materials and methods used shall comply with the requirements specified in *N.J.A.C. 5:23-6.8*, Materials and methods.

1. Exception: Windows may be replaced with windows like those existing without meeting the size requirements of the building subcode.

i. In sleeping rooms below the fourth story in occupancies of Groups R or I-1, where new window openings are being created or the size of window openings is being changed, at least one window shall:

(1) Be operable;

(2) Have a sill height of not more than 44 inches;

(3) Have a width of at least 20 inches, a height of at least 24 inches and a minimum total area of 5.7 square feet measured from head to sill and from side to side.

(4) New window openings in sleeping rooms shall not be required to meet these requirements in buildings where the sleeping room is provided with a door to a corridor having access to two remote exits or in buildings equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system.

ii. Basement windows in buildings of Group R-2 shall comply with the requirements of *N.J.A.C. 5:23-6.26(b)3* where the window serves as the second means of egress from the dwelling unit.

2. Replacement handrails and guardrails shall comply with Sections 1009.10, 1010.8, 1012, and 1013.1 of the building subcode, respectively. Where 50 percent or more of a handrail or guardrail on a flight or on a level is replaced, then this shall be considered a complete replacement and shall comply with the referenced sections of the building subcode. The repair or replacement of less than 50 percent of a handrail or guardrail shall be permitted to match the existing handrail or guardrail. (Building)

(j) All new building elements, as listed in *N.J.A.C. 5:23-6.9*, shall comply with the requirements of that section.

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(k) In a building required by the barrier free subcode to be accessible, where the space altered is a primary function space, an accessible path of travel to the altered space shall be provided up to the point at which the cost of providing accessibility is disproportionate to the cost of the overall alteration project; a cost is disproportionate if it exceeds 20 percent of the cost of the alteration work. (Building)

1. The accessible path of travel shall include, but not be limited to, an accessible parking space, an accessible exterior route, an accessible building entrance, an accessible interior route to the altered area, accessible restrooms, accessible drinking fountains, and accessible telephones serving the altered primary function space. Priority shall be given to providing an accessible entrance or accessible restrooms where possible.

2. In determining disproportionate cost, the following materials may be deducted from the overall cost of the project:

- i. Windows, hardware, operating controls, electrical outlets and signage;
- ii. Mechanical systems, electrical systems, installations or alterations of fire protection systems or abatement of hazardous materials; or
- iii. The repair or installation of roofing, siding, or other exterior wall facade.

3. Where the work consists solely of the alteration of materials or systems listed in (k)2 above, the path of travel requirements shall not apply.

4. Where the alteration work is for the primary purpose of increasing the accessibility of the building or tenancy, the requirement to further improve the path of travel shall not apply.

5. Where it is technically infeasible to comply with the technical standards in the barrier free subcode, the work must comply to the maximum extent feasible.

§ 5:23-6.7 Reconstruction

(a) Reconstruction, as defined in *N.J.A.C. 5:23-6.3*, shall comply with the requirements of this section.

1. If a project is less than the entire use, primary function space or tenancy by a de minimis amount, the construction official may designate the project a reconstruction project and require that the requirements of this section be met.

2. If work performed or to be performed in phases is so extensive that the project would require a new certificate of occupancy if the work were performed at one time, the construction official may designate the project a reconstruction project and require that the requirements of this section be met.

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